

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
July 10, 2008 – **7:00 pm**  
Solid Waste District Board Room – County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp – Chairman, Karl Schrade, David Hilde, Mike Schlegel-Vice Chairman

Committee Members Absent: Dan Siderius

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Administrative Assistant Mike Pence, Recording Secretaries Karen Rogers & Juanita Nelson

Public Attendees: Gabe Gluth, Mark Gluth

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks at this time.

3. Comments from the Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

Mark Gluth, 1068 McMannamy Draw – He commented about a man named Harris going to the county commissioners a few years ago with a proposal to relinquish Garland Lane. He stated Harris was able to accomplish this by using his attorney as a spokesman. He said the public coming to the road advisory meeting do not have the money that Harris has to accomplish what he did. He commented he has viewed some of the county roads and feels that nothing is being done with the dust problem this year, except what private parties have done on Prairie View and McMannamy Draw. He stated he wasn't sure why Stoltz only dust abated the upper portion of McMannamy Draw and not the lower portion. He asked about another gentleman questioning the silica problem and the effects of Mag Chloride, and that being the reason the dust abatement was not placed on the lower portion of McMannamy Draw. He commented on an article in the Flathead Beacon from Dave Prunty and Mike Pence about services being cut due to lack of funding. He stated the company he works for is a service related business, like the county, but his company is cutting employees not service from lack of funding. He suggested the county should be doing the same.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – **Action Required**

**Mike Schlegel moved to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2008 meeting. Dave Hilde seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.**

5. Action Agenda – **No Items Requiring Action**

6. Director's Report

a. Discussion Topics for Commissioners Report Continued

Charles asked about amending the resolution for enforcement of commercial vehicles. Mike Schlegel stated he initiated this comment, but he also stated he has spoken with various contractors and they feel that they shouldn't be required to do 100% of the dust abatement. Dave Prunty stated the resolution was focused on the commercial vehicles and the contractors would be able to recoup their costs.

Dave Hilde stated the county should revise the resolution. He feels the county needs to shut the contractor down instead of fining the company should they refuse to apply dust abatement. He doesn't feel fining a contractor works as a penalty, shutting them down is the best.

Charles asked about the usage of water and the proper procedure for applying water during specific projects. Dave Prunty replied his answer is it is better to apply three light applications of water rather than one heavy application.

Charles asked that if any kind of construction is going on for a period of time, that water is ok to use for dust abatement, and the company does not have to use a dust palliative. Dave Hilde stated the contractor should be able to use any thing they want, as long as it keeps the dust down. Mike Schlegel stated the materials used for dust palliatives need to be approved by the EPA, according to the county, so water would count.

Karl Schrade asked if dust is a big enough problem to shut someone down. Dave Prunty stated DEQ Air Quality might be able along with the Health Department, but the Road Department certainly does not.

Charles Lapp stated the Environmental Health Department has stopped by construction sites and advised about the dust being created.

Mike Schlegel stated to make sure the resolution is enforceable there are going to have to be measurable tools to use as a guide, such as number of trucks hauling, dust rising up so far.

Dave Hilde stated the county would have to make some sort of requirement or resolution that companies using a county gravel road with frequent vehicles a day, then dust abatement would be required.

Karl Schrade stated the deterioration of a road could be applied towards asphalt roads also, not just gravel roads.

Discussion was held about putting dust abatement in the Conditional Use Permits being issued to developers and gravel pits.

General discussion was held on the next four bullets.

Mike Schlegel suggested getting permission from private landowners to acquire water closer to the areas working, instead of having to drive all the way back to the shop. Dave Hilde agreed with Mike about getting permissions from the landowners. Mike Pence stated possibly applying for more water rights.

Karl Schrade stated it still needs to be a goal to get more water on the roads.

Mike Schlegel stated it costs approximately \$3500 to blade, water & apply mag chloride to a mile of road. At this cost, approximately 30 miles would be done with the \$100,000 suggested cost sharing program. Dave Prunty stated if the county contributes \$100,000, the private landowners contribute \$100,000 then 60 miles could be dust abated.

Dave Hilde asked if watering & rolling were done prior to the applicator applies the dust palliative. Dave Prunty stated when the applicator applies there has to be a water truck and a grader with the applicator. Dave Hilde stated you need a roller with it. Mike Schlegel stated no, the road needs to be loose in order for the material to penetrate. He continued to state that after the mag chloride is applied twice, the road is typically wheel rolled.

Karl Schrade asked if there is a hole 4-5 inches deep and then filled or graded that needs to be packed, other wise the hole will return. Dave Hilde stated the road needs to watered & rolled when they are graded.

Mike Schlegel explained that during the spring balding, should be when the pot holes are cut from the road, including crowning and compacting. Then when the mag chloride is applied later in the year, the surface only needs to be scarified approximately 2 inches for the mag chloride to penetrate.

Charles Lapp asked if there is a set criterion in what the county is responsible for and what the landowners are responsible for on the maintenance of county roads. Is there a point where the maintenance of asphalt roads becomes the landowner's responsibility? He stated the landowner is going to question the cost share to dust abate on a gravel road, yet the landowner that lives on a paved road does not have to cost share.

Dave Hilde asked if it costs \$3500 per mile for mag chloride, what the black oil costs. Mike Schlegel stated you could figure black oil cost would be about double per mile.

Karl Schrade strongly feels that the \$100,000 is not enough in the dust abatement cost share program. He feels all overlays and new paving should be through a separate fund. Dave Prunty explained that any new money from vehicle taxing or such should go to new paving and overlays, while the current funding should be used for maintenance including dust abatement. Charles Lapp agreed with Karl, that the new money would be also used for existing services. Dave Prunty asked if the committee was suggesting ceasing all asphalt maintenance in Flathead County unless new money was received. Karl Schrade stated he wouldn't go that far, but he would not approve the recommendation for \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 for overlays. Dave Prunty stated, just as an example, committing \$500,000 to asphalt maintenance and having a matching \$500,000 for gravel maintenance. Charles Lapp agreed that any revenue initiative needs to be presented to the public as fair and equal to all residents.

Dave Hilde stated before the issue of going to the public for a new revenue, the committee needs to prove to the public that the road department is using its current budget efficiently and most cost effective.

Karl Schrade asked what if in the interim period the residents picked up the cost for the overlays and new paving while the county pays for the engineering costs and fees for the RSID's. Dave Prunty stated there would be problems to get the public to agree, even those that live on paved roads. They would make the same comments that the people living on gravel roads make, "No, I pay my \$75 in taxes to the road department every year that should get my road overlaid."

Dave Prunty suggested moving funds from the paving and overlays this year and putting the funds into improving more gravel roads.

Mike Schlegel stated if the county is going to divert funds, the committee needs to have a future plan, such as five years. The costs and type of projects need to be determined to get the priority, some gravel roads may cost more to maintain then it would be more beneficial to double chip seal rather than dust abate. He stated those are the things that need to be reviewed.

Dave Prunty stated that is why the county has implemented the PASER system to rate the roads and to build the matrix for the prioritization of the roads, using traffic counts, maintenance costs, budgeted funds, etc.

## 7. Comments from the Committee Members

Dave Hilde motioned to submit the discussion topics for the report as amended to Commissioners. Mike Schlegel seconded the motion.

Discussion was held, that a copy of the amended draft discussion topics should be reviewed before being submitted to the commissioners.

**Dave Hilde motioned to table the motion to submit the draft to the commissioners until the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mike Schlegel seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed.**

Karl Schrade asked for a report of all current road operations. He feels the road department should address the committee with either monthly or bi-monthly report on current operations.

8. Adjournment

**Mike Schlegel made the motion to adjourn, David Hilde seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.**